Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 $\,$

INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /055 W

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R 071045Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6919

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MARR TH

SUBJECT: PROPAGANDA REGARDING US BASES IN THAILAND

- 1. IN THE COURSE OF A CONVERSATION WITH SOVIET AMBASSADOR BORIS ILIECHEV AT THE KING'S BIRTHDAY RECEPTION, BORIS REMARKED SMUGLY THAT I SEEMED MORE CHEERFUL THAN I HAD BEEN UNDER PREVIOUS THAI GOVERNMENTS. THERE WERE MANY RUMORS THAT QTE THE AMERICANS WOULD BE COMING BACK UNQTE.
- 2. I REPLIED THAT BORIS SHOULDN'T BELIEVE WHAT HE READ IN TASS OR HEARD OVER RADIO HANOI. BORIS COUNTERED THAT THEY WERE ONLY QUOTING WHAT WAS SAID BY THE WASHINGTON POST. I SAID THAT SOMETIMES EVEN THE WASHINGTON POST WAS WRONG. WE DID NOT PLAN TO REOPEN ANY BASES. WE HAD NOT BEEN ASKED TO OPEN ANY BASES, AND THIS APPLIED TO RAMASUN. THE POST HAD RUN THE STORY AFTER BEING GIVEN A CATEGORIC DENIAL BY THE EMBASSY.

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3. STILL FISHING, BORIS ASKED WHETHER WE WERE NOT

SENDING CIVILIANS TO RAMASUN. I REPLIED THAT THE BASE WAS CLOSED AND THAT THERE WERE NO AMERICANS EITHER MILITARY OR CIVILIAN THERE.

4. COMMENT: THE COMMUNISTS HAVE HAD A FIELD DAY WITH THE WASHINGTON POST STORY ALLEGING THAT WE PLAN TO REOPEN THE RAMASUN RADIO INTERCEPT STATION. THIS WAS THE FIRST OPPORTUNITY WE HAVE HAD TO BELL THIS CAT WITH THE RUSSIANS HERE. WHITEHOUSE

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Subject: PROPAGANDA REGARDING US BASES IN THAILAND

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, TH, US To: STATE

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